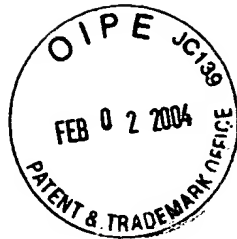


03560.002025.1



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
TADASHI OKAMOTO, ET AL.)	Examiner: A. Marschel
Application No.: 09/931,048)	Group Art Unit: 1631
Filed: August 17, 2001)	
For: PROCESS FOR DETECTING)	
TARGET NUCLEIC ACID)	
(As Amended))	Date: January 30, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

Sir:

Applicants petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2003 for two months from December 2, 2003 to February 2, 2004.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$420.00 to cover the fee for the extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. Any deficiency in or overpayment of this fee should be charged or credited to Deposit Account 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this petition is enclosed.

02/06/2004 HDAHTE1 00000083 09931048

01 FC:1252

420.00 OP

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 40,595

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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